GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2638
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2016
Sand Stowing
Marutharajaa Shri R.P.

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether sand stowing of various underground coal mines in the country has been undertaken and evaluated and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the coal mining companies are liable for not undertaking sand stowing as per stipulations and if so, the details thereof, State-wise, including Tamil Nadu and Odisha and the corrective action taken by the Government in this regard;
(c) whether possibility of man-made earthquakes has been evaluated on account of improper sand stowing of coal mines particularly in seismic zone-III; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER, NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): Sand Stowing is undertaken in an underground mine when surface features are required to be protected. Any extraction of coal pillars by stowing method is done after getting permission from Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS). The details of sand stowing during last 3 years state wise are as follows:

Sl. No Name of Company / States. Qty Approved by CCDAC (mÂ³)
(Coal Conservation and Development Advisory Committee)
2013-14 2014-15 2015-16
1 West Bengal (ECL) 1696598 2082610 1766602
2 Jharkhand (BCCL) 110182 103770 117436
3 Jharkhand (CCL) 105744 29480 22781
4 Maharastra (WCL) 1006619 773225 859754
5 Odisha (MCL) 4645 0 0
TOTAL(CIL) 3015241 3059172 2848500
6 Telangana (SCCL) 2744951 3093663 2945207
7 Jharkhand (IISCO) 73906 115684 128630
8 Jharkhand (TATA) 357651 386080 336488
TOTAL(NON-CIL) 3176508 3595427 3410325
GRAND TOTAL 6191749 6654599 6258825

(b): As per regulation 106 of Coal Mines Regulations 1957, protective work / sand stowing measures are required to be done as directed by Chief Inspector of Mines. In case mine management fails to carry out adequate sand stowing and provide adequate protective works within stipulated time, Chief Inspector of Mines may get the work executed by any other agency and the cost thereof, as certified by Chief Inspector of Mines shall be recovered from mine management. Further, Chief Inspector under Sec 64 of the Mines Act 1952 may take action against mine management for non-compliance of the above.

Coal India Limited is not working in the State of Tamilnadu. Moreover no mine of CIL was closed due to not undertaking sand stowing.

(c)& (d): So far, there is no record of man-made earthquake due to underground mines.

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